



ADDRESS BY THE AG. VICE CHANCELLOR OF THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY ILARO (FORMERLY FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC ILARO), DR MUKAIL AKINDE, FCA, FCTI, ACS, AT THE 23RD CONVOCATION CEREMONY AND 46TH FOUNDER'S DAY ANNIVERSARY OF THE FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC ILARO ON WEDNESDAY, 15TH APRIL 2026

Protocols

The Visitor to the University,
The President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR,
The Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Maruf Tunji Alausa, CON, ably represented by the Director of Polytechnic and Allied Institutions, Mrs. Igwe Amy K., and her team,
The Honourable Minister of State for Education, Professor Suwaiba Said Ahmad
The Executive Governor of Ogun State, His Excellency, Prince Dapo Abiodun, CON,
The Executive Governor of Katsina State, His Excellency Mallam Dikko Umaru Radda, PhD, CON, the Convocation Lecturer of the day,
The Executive Secretary of NBTE, Professor Idris Bugaje,
The Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono,
The Registrar, Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board, Prof. Ishaq Olarewaju Oloyede, CON,
Distinguished Pro-Chancellor and Members of the Governing Council,
The Principal Officers of the Federal University of Technology, Ilaro,
The Visiting Rectors, Registrars, Librarians, Bursars, Former Rectors and Principal Officers
Academic Board Members,
The Olu of Ilaro, Paramount Ruler of Yewaland and Chairman, Ogun State Council of Obas, His Royal Majesty, Oba (Dr) Kehinde Gbadewole, Agunloye IV, MFR,
The Alake of Egba, and the Paramount Ruler of Egbaland,
His Royal Majesty, Oba Adedotun Aremu Gbadebo III
The Olubadan of Ibadanland,
His Imperial Majesty, Oba Rashidi Adewolu Ladoja
Other Traditional Rulers,
Distinguished Recipients of the Fellowship Award,
Distinguished Guests,
The Alumni,
Esteemed Parents and Guardians,
Members of the Federal Polytechnic Ilaro, now Federal University of Technology, Ilaro Community,
And above all, graduands of the Federal Polytechnic, Ilaro, now Federal University of Technology, Ilaro,
Gentlemen of the Press,
Ladies and Gentlemen.

I gladly welcome you all to the 23rd Convocation Ceremony of this great Institution. I thank the Honourable Minister of Education, Dr Maruf Tunji Alausa, representing the Visitor, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR), ably represented by the team led by the Director of Polytechnic and Allied Institutions, Mrs. Igwe Amy K., Executive Secretary of the NBTE, Prof. Idris Bugaje, Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono, the Pro-Chancellor and Chairman, Governing Council of the Federal University of Technology, Ilaro, Alhaji Garba Bilal Gashua, and other members of the reputable Council and other dignitaries for gracing this occasion. I appreciate His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Ogun State, Prince Dapo Abiodun, CON, an esteemed nominee of our fellowship awards, and His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Katsina State, Mallam Dikko



Umaru Radda, PhD, CON, another esteemed nominee of the award of fellowship, who will be delivering the convocation lecture. My profound salutation goes to His Royal Majesty, Oba Adedotun Aremu Gbadebo III, the Alake of Egba and the Paramount ruler of Egbaland, and in the same measure to His Imperial Majesty, Oba Rashidi Adewolu Ladoja, the Olubadan of Ibadan, our eminent royal fathers, whose aura, resplendence, and impactful leadership strides echo beyond our shared region and who have been proudly nominated to receive awards of fellowship of our great Institution. I appreciate Mr. Sotayo Olugbenga Sonuga, the CEO of Haven Homes, an alumnus of this great Institution and a phenomenal partner in our development project, who is equally receiving our fellowship award today.

Today, as we gather to celebrate a monumental milestone in the history of our beloved Institution, my heart swells with pride and gratitude. The Federal Polytechnic Ilaro has been converted to the Federal University of Technology Ilaro. I would like to express my appreciation to President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, the Senate President, Senator Godswill Obot Akpabio, GCON, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rt. Hon. Abbas Tajudeen, PhD, GCON, the Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Maruf Tunji Alausa, the Honourable Minister of State for Education, Prof. Suwaiba Said Ahmad and distinguished Senator Aremo Dr. Olamilekan Adeola (YAYI), CON, FCA, FCTI, FFPI, who initiated and consummated the process of establishing the Federal University of Technology, Ilaro. This journey, initiated by our distinguished Senator Aremo Dr. Olamilekan Adeola (YAYI), CON, FCA, FCTI, FFPI, actually started under the leadership of the former Rector, Arc. Olusegun Olarewaju Aluko, PhD, with Dr. Raheem Adisa Oloyo, of blessed memory, playing a key leadership role. Destiny ultimately beckoned on me to present a memo in support of the final Bill at the Senate Public Hearing in Abuja. But the major credit goes to our father, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR, who assented to it. Gratitude also goes to HRM Oba Dr. Kehinde Gbadewole Olugbenle, Olu of Ilaro, who galvanised the passion of all Obas, Chiefs, and development stakeholders within the Yewa region around the propulsive development. In the same vein, the Management, Staff, Unions, Alumni Association, and Students of the Institution are deeply appreciated for their perpetual cooperation and support for the initiative. This upgrade is a worthy reward to the unwavering dedication, hard work, and resilience of every member of our community – students, staff, and stakeholders.

I extend my heartfelt appreciation to His Excellency, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, Honourable Minister of Education, Dr. Maruf Tunji Alausa, and our distinguished Senator Olamilekan Adeola, FCA (Yayi), for not only being instrumental to the upgrade of our Institution, but also reappointing me as the Ag. Vice Chancellor and retaining other Principal Officers. Your trust and confidence in our leadership are humbling, and we pledge to continue driving excellence along the trajectory of the Renewed Hope Agenda. I assure you that our Institution's core values, which drove this upgrade, align with the priorities of the progressive administration of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu in the unleashing of creative potentials and production of skilled and self-sufficient high-level technical manpower for massive industrial development and economic empowerment. Hence, they shall be sustained as the working hypotheses and operational anchors of our great University. Though the financial challenges of the transition project are enormous, we are hopeful that the Federal Government will come to our aid and ensure that we experience a seamless and fruitful transition into a University.

May I also reiterate my deep gratitude to my predecessors, most especially the immediate past Rector, Arc Olusegun Olarewaju Aluko, PhD, and the past Management team, for their enduring legacy, which we have built upon to notch new milestones. Their counsel and guidance continue to inspire us. I also acknowledge the dedication and expertise of our staff, represented by ASUP,



SSANIP, and NASU. The Students' Union body and Alumni Association have been invaluable partners, demonstrating cooperation and commitment to our shared vision. Their support and intentional proclivity towards maintaining a stable and congenial learning climate have been instrumental in driving our Institution's progress over the past year.

The Federal Government's dedication to the Renewed Hope Agenda, evident in its education sector initiatives, has driven significant advancements in the education sector. TETFund, this last week supplied equipment worth billions of naira to construct an innovation Center and the design of 2 megawatts solar farm has been completed and about to start by the Federal Government of Nigeria. Over the past year, Federal Polytechnic Ilaro has leveraged this momentum, benefiting from targeted interventions and achievements that have revitalised technical education. For instance, we have parlayed TETFund interventions and normal capital votes to pull off numerous achievements in infrastructure delivery, facility provisioning and upgrade, welfare enhancement, capacity building, innovations, and research in the last three years of this administration. All of our modest feats have been well highlighted in the brochure that has been circulated in this programme. Please do take time to peruse. We are also grateful to the Federal Government of Nigeria and happy to say NELFUND loans have eased the financial burdens on our students, with about 1450 of them already accessing the intervention.

Distinguished guests, I am delighted to proclaim that 8713 outstanding individuals have earned the esteemed National Diplomas and Higher National Diplomas from our Polytechnic, as endorsed by the Academic Board. This year, we have produced a total of 3,067 HND graduands, comprising 1,359 male and 1,708 female graduands. Out of the 3,067 HND graduands, 201 came out with distinction, with Fadiran Boluwatife Enitan of the Science Laboratory Technology Department, with a 3.97 CGPA, emerging as the best graduating student. Additionally, 5,646 students, comprising 2,868 male and 2,778 female students, completed the ND programme, with 281 earning distinctions. Tijani Boluwatife Oluwaseyi of the Animal Health and Production Technology Department, with a CGPA of 3.93, emerged as the best graduating ND student. Congratulations to our accomplished graduands. The tables below present the statistics of graduands.

Table I: HND II 2024/2025 Graduation Summary

	SCHOOLS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1	School of Agricultural Science	22	16	38
2	School of Art and Design and Printing Technology	31	13	44
3	School of Communication and Information Technology	154	292	446
4	School of Engineering	352	61	413
5	School of Environmental Studies	170	62	232
6	School of Management Studies	444	749	1193
7	School of Pure and Applied Sciences	177	509	686
8	Open Distance and Flexible E-Learning (ODFEL)	9	6	15
	TOTAL	1359	1708	3067

Table II: ND II 2024/2025 Graduation Summary

	SCHOOLS	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
1	School of Agricultural Science	42	34	76
2	School of Art and Design and Printing Technology	55	21	76



3	School of Communication and Information Technology	150	246	396
4	School of Engineering	430	45	475
5	School of Environmental Studies	328	147	475
6	School of Management Studies	368	616	984
7	School of Pure and Applied Sciences	202	479	681
8	School of Part-Time Studies	1289	1180	2469
9	Open Distance and Flexible E-Learning (ODFEL)	4	10	14
	TOTAL	2868	2778	5646

Table III: Summary of Graduands (2024/2025 Session)

1	Total Number of HND Graduands - 2024/2025 Session	3067
2	Total Number of ND Graduands - 2024/2025 Session	5646
	Total Number of Graduands - 2024/2025 Session	8713

Once again, ladies and gentlemen, permit me to appreciate the Executive Governor of Katsina State, His Excellency, Mallam Dikko Umaru Radda, PhD, CON, for agreeing to deliver this year's convocation lecture – *"Digital Literacy: Fundamental Skills and Job Creation Tools for Graduands in the 21st Century"*. Given his strides in the digital ecosystem as a former Director-General of the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria and now as a Governor who has been performing extraordinarily when it comes to ideating community-led and technology-driven programmes and employing digital literacy to bring about governance transformation and youth empowerment, the Management of this great Institution considered it imperative to bring him here so that the entire country can all share from his wealth of experiences. We are so happy that he did oblige us in the best interest of the teeming Nigerian youth and his profound commitment to national economic development. I strongly believe that his lecture today would serve as a pivot for creative policy formulations that would culminate in empowerment schemes and opportunities for our young graduates towards unleashing their creative instincts in the digital ecosystem and making them effective and capacitated to be equal opportunity participants in the 4th and 5th industrial revolutions.

I must acknowledge the outstanding contributions of the 5 nominees who will receive our highest fellowship honour today. We are privileged to confer fellowship awards on distinguished leaders: the Executive Governor of Ogun State, His Excellency, Prince Dapo Abiodun, CON, for driving transformational development, bringing about peace and security, and enabling steady progress within Ogun State; the Executive Governor of Katsina State, His Excellency, Mallam Dikko Umaru Radda, PhD, CON, for his phenomenal and exemplary commitment to sustainable development, most instantiated in his investment in digital governance as a tool of economic transformation and good governance; His Royal Majesty, Oba Adedotun Aremu Gbadebo III, Alake of Egbaland, for preserving heritage and fostering unity across our State; and His Imperial Majesty, Oba Rashidi Adewolu Ladoja, Olubadan of Ibadan, for his exemplary commitment to philanthropy, cultural leadership and uncommon discipline, which resonate beyond the boundaries of Oyo State. Their contributions to governance, culture, and community upliftment embody the values we hold dear. We honour their dedication and commitment. For Mr. Sotayo Olugbenga Sonuga, the CEO of Haven Homes, an alumnus of this great Institution, it is about proudly embracing his positive symbolism as a source of inspiration to our graduates that they can also make it and be inspired to give back to their alma mater. It is essentially about expressing in-depth gratitude for his unwavering support



to us as an Institution and the metaphoric significance of his virtues as the exemplification of our ideal values.

Our distinguished awardees, the community, under the leadership of His Royal Majesty, Oba (Dr.) ESV Kehinde Gbadewole Olugbenle, MFR, Olu of Ilaro and Paramount Ruler of Yewa Kingdom, while celebrating your achievements and contributions to our good governance, regional stability, and cultural preservation, which positively impact our development project, I crave your indulgence to use this avenue to seek your continuous support. I call on you, the Federal Government, alumni groups, the community and other development partners alike to address our pressing needs as we properly transition into a University with numerous funding gaps. Resources and facilities such as additional auditoriums, laboratories, studios, hostels, classrooms, amphitheatres, equipment, internal roads, electric transformers, Toyota Hilux, and 30-seater capacity coaster buses are vital for scaling our impact as we function as a University primed to focus on hands-on training, innovation, and research geared towards solving myriad national problems and preparing students to be self-sufficient. I therefore appeal to you to kindly donate to the Institution any of the items mentioned above, and these will be named after the donors. May God continue to bless you as you prioritise our needs in your endowment plans.

Dear graduands, warm congratulations on your achievement. Your acquired knowledge and skills empower you to excel locally and globally, defying limits and proving doubters wrong. As ambassadors of Federal Polytechnic Ilaro, we uphold integrity, diligence, and excellence. Represent us with pride. Go all out and succeed in the name of God.

I express heartfelt appreciation to our Management team, staff, students, security personnel, spiritual leaders, and the Ilaro community, led by HRM Oba (Dr.) ESV Kehinde Gbadewole Olugbenle MFR, Olu of Ilaro and Paramount Ruler of Yewa Kingdom, along with esteemed Obas and traditional chiefs, for their steadfast support. Special thanks to Senator Olamilekan Adeola (Yayi) for his transformative interventions that have uplifted our Institution and region. Together, we've forged lasting legacies; with your partnership, we'll reach new pinnacles.

Finally, I want to thank my dearest wife, my partner and mascot, TPL Akinde, A. S., Nee Adelu and Ogunsanya of Olaniyonu Compound (Ofin), Lagos Island and Ikorodu, respectively, and my children from Aguro Heritage in Ilaro. I am always on the road; thank you for supporting me in the course of this national assignment. You are dearly appreciated.

Thank you, and may God bless you all.